

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A belt drive for a machine for printing images on a flat printing material, comprising:

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a ~~continuous~~ belt for revolving during operation, said belt defining a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction, said belt having two protruding edges oriented in the longitudinal direction of said belt and being opposite one another in the transverse direction of said belt, said belt having a non-constant modulus of elasticity; and

a belt guide having stops with shaped surfaces acting on said two protruding edges of said belt;

said shaped surfaces being selected from a group consisting of inclined surfaces and curved surfaces, ~~said shaped surfaces exclusively contacting said protruding edges of said belt.~~

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The belt drive according to claim 1, wherein said stops remain stationary with respect to the belt revolving during operation.

Claim 3 (previously amended): The belt drive according to claim 1, wherein: said shaped surfaces are rotationally symmetrical stop surfaces in rolling contact with said edges.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A machine for printing images on flat printing material, comprising a belt drive including:

a ~~continuous~~ belt for revolving during operation, said belt defining a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction, said belt having two protruding edges oriented in the longitudinal direction of said belt and being opposite one another in the transverse direction of said belt, said belt having a non-constant modulus of elasticity; and

a belt guide having stops with shaped surfaces acting on said two protruding edges of said belt;

said shaped surfaces being selected from a group consisting of inclined surfaces and curved surfaces, ~~said shaped surfaces exclusively contacting said protruding edges of said belt.~~

Claim 5 (new): A belt drive for a machine for printing images on a flat printing material, comprising:

a belt for revolving during operation, said belt defining a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction, said belt having two protruding edges oriented in the longitudinal direction of said belt and being opposite one another in the transverse direction of said belt;

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(concluded)
a belt guide having stops with shaped surfaces acting on said
two protruding edges of said belt; and

said shaped surfaces being curved surfaces.
